

**Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)**

**From:** Jennifer Wampler [jennifer@dcr-virginia.ccsend.com] on behalf of Jennifer Wampler [jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 10:31 AM  
**To:** Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)  
**Subject:** Latest Greenways and Trails News from DCR



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**Forward to a Friend**

Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program News Group. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your preferences.

**The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**  
**in Prince William and Stafford Counties**
**By Donald E. Briggs****PRINCE WILLIAM**

On a warm Saturday in late September on the shores of the Potomac River in Leesylvania State Park, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Prince William County moved a step closer to completion with a memorandum of



understanding signed by Trail stakeholders. Organized by Prince William County Supervisor Frank J. Principi, Woodbridge District, attended by Congressman Gerry Connelly and by State Senator Tom Puller; the event showcased the outstanding resources in two river districts and the substantial coordination necessary among many agencies and organizations to connect them. Portions of the Trail are also identical to the planned route of the East Coast Greenway.

The following partners in Prince William County have recognized the trail's importance by signing a memorandum of understanding with National Park Service: Board of Supervisors, Park Authority, Office Planning, Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, Trails and Blueways Council, Trails and Streams Coalition, Conservation and Visitors Bureau

Other partners working in the county who have signed an MOU include the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Leesylvania State Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association, Inc.

**STAFFORD**

In November 2010, over 1,000 people participated in the dedication of a new park in Stafford County. Government Island, on Aquia Creek, tributary of the Potomac River, was used historically as a source of stone in the construction of the U.S. Capitol, White House and other prominent

Marketing Program

Open 2/7/11--Close 4/7/11

VTC Marketing Leverage Program

Open early spring

Tourism and the Arts Marketing Program

Open 6/1/11--Close 8/2/11

Funding opportunities in Virginia

Grants.gov is the federal funding site for 1000 grant programs offered by 26 agencies.

**Coal Heritage Trail**

Communities

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diligently  
to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the Coal Heritage Trail to extend the National Scenic Byway designation from West Virginia to Virginia. The plan will help guide and prioritize enhancements of traveler facilities along the corridor.

**Free Guides  
Interpretive Planning  
Designing for Non-Motorized  
Transportation  
Livability in Transportation**

The National Park Service has released an Interpretive Planning Toolkit that provides an eight-step process for interpretive planning. Web-only tools as well as new and updated templates, examples, resources, and links help facilitate regional and site-level interpretive planning.

Designing for Non-Motorized Transportation is a list of materials and references that can be used to explain the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities, or for information on trail design or

buildings. Read more about the site's history.

The park features a new trailhead, a 1.5-mile walking trail--a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail--and a set of interpretive exhibits. For more information and to request a new brochure, visit Stafford Tourism.

**EXPLORE THE TRAIL NETWORK**

Promotion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network--as a set of related experiences--continues to increase with an expanding suite of travel ideas on the Potomac Explorer Web site. The site features an new interactive map and provides a means of coordination among tourism promotion agencies and destination marketing organizations. For general information on the Trail network, visit www.nps.gov/pohe.

## **The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 38th Biennial Conference**

**Virginia Journeys 2011**

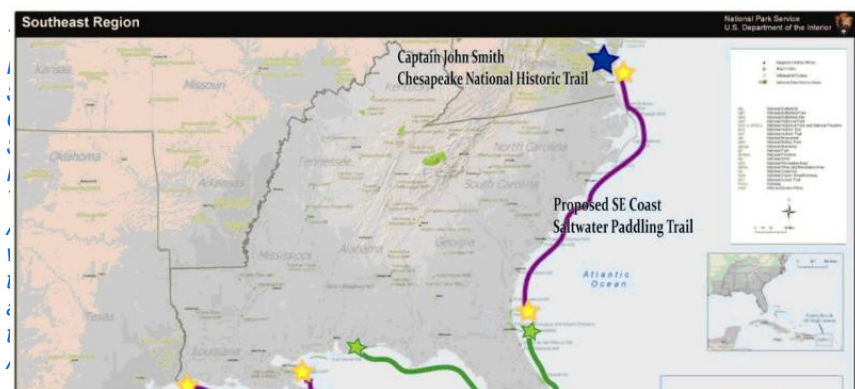
July 1 - 8, 2011

Emory &amp; Henry College - Emory, Virginia

Hosted by the seven A.T. maintaining clubs of Central and Southwest Virginia, the Biennial will celebrate the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Mountain Trails of Virginia. Planned around ATC's membership meeting, Virginia Journeys 2011 is also an opportunity for A.T. enthusiasts to take a Trail related workshop, hike on the A.T. (and other trails) in Virginia and Tennessee and explore Damascus, Virginia - the "friendliest town on the trail." During this event participants will:

- Hike sections of the A.T. in Southwest VA and Northeast TN
- Ride the scenic and historic VA Creeper Bike Trail
- Learn to pack light, use a GPS, or design a campsite at a workshop
- Canoe on the New River or at Hungry Mother State Park
- Discuss how to engage youth on the A.T.
- Enjoy a VA Winery
- Listen to nationally known and local musical entertainment
- Join discussions about ATC programs and volunteer leadership
- Photograph historic Mabry Mill along the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Help maintain a section of the A.T.
- And much, much more!

For more information or to register for this event visit [www.virginia2011.org](http://www.virginia2011.org)

**The Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail**

designing for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The [Livability in Transportation Guidebook](#) illustrates how livability principles have been incorporated into transportation planning, programming, and project design, using examples from State, regional, and local sponsors. The guidebook explores how transportation planning and programs can improve community quality of life, enhance environmental performance, increase transportation and housing choice while lowering costs, and support economic vitality in urban, suburban and rural areas.

### 2011 Calendar

January 30 - Feb. 4 ~ [NRPA Park & Recreation Maintenance Management School](#) · Wheeling, WV

February 12-17  
[Hike the Hill:](#) Trails Advocacy Week, Washington, DC

March 8-10

[National Bike Summit](#)  
Washington, DC

March 13-20 ~ [Sustainable Trails Conference](#) · Professional Trailbuilders Association  
Asheville, NC

April 14-16  
2011 [TN Greenways and Trails Forum](#) Murfreesboro, TN

May 7  
[Cap2Cap Classic](#)  
Richmond, VA

May 15-19  
[13th Conference on National Scenic & Historical Trails](#)  
Abingdon, VA.

June 4  
[National Trails Day](#)

June 18-25  
[James River Batteau Festival](#)

June 24-29  
[Bike Virginia Tour](#)-New River Valley

### *Coast from Florida to the Chesapeake Bay*

Have you ever thought about exploring the coastline with your sea kayak? This project will assist paddlers of all levels with trip planning for a coastal excursion-- from families looking to explore the trail in half-day segments at a leisurely pace, to advanced paddlers that wish to conduct long-distance multi-day trips.

The expected outcome for the first phase of the Southeast Coastal Paddling Trail project is to identify, document, and map corridor features and facilities in each state. The intent is to use existing public sites and acceptable commercial sites that provide safe, legal access for day or multi-day paddling trips. Virginia is working closely with partnering states in the Southeast to develop consistent GIS base mapping protocols; and working closely with North Carolina to assess potential linkage points between the two states.

Once data collection and analysis is complete, a water trail guide and map will be compiled and made available in digital formats via a newly created SE Coastal Paddling Trail website.

Contact [Janit.Llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Janit.Llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov), 804-786-0887

## State Trail Worker Award--Sam Jensen

### On the Path of Excellence

The American Trails' National Trails Awards Program honored people and programs at the [20th American Trails National Symposium](#)

The State Trail Worker Award recognized an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and provided consistent support for trail planning, development, or maintenance. It is intended to recognize the commitment and efforts of a private or public sector individual working for enhanced trail recreation in their local area/state.

Since joining the staff at Fairy Stone State Park in 2005, Sam Jensen has worked diligently to maintain and improve the two trail systems in the park. One of his most outstanding accomplishments has been the transformation of the park's Oak Hickory Trail into a self-guided interpretive nature trail. Through Sam's collaboration with the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists, this 1.1-mile loop trail has become an enhancement to the park, with signage that effectively interprets the natural environment.

Fairy Stone State Park has two separate trail systems: Stuart's Knob, for pedestrians only, and Little Mountain, which consists of approximately 9



July 21-23 ~ [Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference](#) - Auburn, AL

September 24  
[Public Lands Day](#)

## Recreational Trails Program Update

The Recreational Trails Program received 46 preliminary applications for the first phase of the grant cycle that concluded in early January. Requests for assistance total over \$3.6 million dollars. Preliminary applications will be reviewed, scored and ranked by the Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. Those projects best meeting the intent of the program will advance to the second phase of the grant cycle to submit the formal application involving NEPA compliance and public comment. The RTP is a federal, matching, reimbursement program for the construction and/or rehabilitation of trails and trail related facilities (trailheads, trailsides, directional signage, etc.). DCR administers the RTP in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration.

### Free Webinars

#### **"The Health Benefits from Active Transportation"**

February 15, 2011  
2:00 to 3 p.m. EST

#### **"Health Impact Assessments (HIAS) in Transportation"**

March 15, 2011  
2:00 to 3 p.m. EST

Contact: Eloisa Raynault  
[eloisa.raynault@apha.org](mailto:eloisa.raynault@apha.org)

## Scenic Rivers 40th Anniversary A Banner Year

With the close of 2010 and the 40th Anniversary celebration, there are now 28 Scenic Rivers in

miles of multi-use trails. The Oak Hickory Trail is part of the Little Mountain system, and provides a gentle hike through mixed hardwood forest. The recent trail upgrades were the result of more than a year of planning, culminating with the installation of new signage in November 2009.

Guided by Park Ranger Sam Jensen, the Master Naturalists of the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter planned and researched content for the new trail signs. Then, it was up to Ranger Jensen to secure approvals and insure that the signage met all standards as required by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, managing agency for Virginia State Parks.

On the day of installation, Ranger Jensen provided final instruction to the volunteers and appropriate placement for signposts. The new signs describe various aspects of the ecosystem, including trees, streams, and animals, as well as the relationship of the forest to humans, with photographs that make it easy for users to identify the variety of flora and fauna.

Although Park Ranger Jensen has varied responsibilities, both as a law enforcement officer in the park, and as supervisor of interpretive programs, his dedication to trail work stands out. His leadership as a trail worker has enhanced opportunities for visitors to Fairy Stone State Park to learn from and to enjoy the natural environment. Thank you, Sam!

## Nation's Premier Intercity Greenway Completes Record Year of Growth

By Dennis Markatos

A national treasure is developing - quickly. Largely under the radar during its first major decade of development, the [East Coast Greenway \(ECG\)](#) now has a 2,900-mile route stretching from Maine's border with Canada to Key West, Florida. It is the urban sister to the Appalachian Trail, yet only a fraction of the public know about it. The hundreds of thousand people that enjoy its segments are often more familiar with their local greenways than the whole ECG system. But all that began to change in 2010.

What appeared to many as an insurmountable dream a decade ago is quickly becoming a reality. The steadfast few people in the mid-1990s who took on the visionary task of linking eastern cities by non-motorized, multi-use trail would likely be considered unrealistic by reasonable observers. At the end of 1999, only 2.5% of the corridor was designated, a mere 73 out of 2,900 miles.

However, fast-forward to today, and the ECG as a safe and accessible route for all is becoming nearly inevitable. The hard work of thousands of volunteers and a few staff of the support organization, the [East Coast Greenway Alliance](#), has driven strong greenway growth. Almost 600 miles have now been designated and completed trail makes up more than 25% of the route today. The speed of greenway growth has accelerated from 7% per year in 2006 to 21% in 2010. Broken down by miles designated, growth increased from 21 new miles four years ago to over 100 in 2010. And a similar increase is possible during the year ahead thanks to strong partnerships with local and state institutions.

This progress bodes well for our country's ability to foster economic recovery, a healthy public, and a thriving natural environment. US addiction to oil imports costs us [over \\$1 billion per day](#) and is rising quickly these days. Rampant obesity and its ill effects cost our people [over \\$100 billion every year](#). And [tens of billions of dollars are lost annually](#) from current levels of pollution in the US. The potential for biking



the program, with more miles added last year than any single year. In 2011, additional river miles are going before the General Assembly, including the Nottoway River extension in Southampton County and the Lower Appomattox extension.

Other river communities are considering going through the process of getting designations, including Goochland and Powhatan for the James River, and communities along the Pamunkey, Tye and New Rivers.

With over 620 miles now designated, we anticipate that 2011 will be another banner year as communities opt for Scenic River designation to enhance and protect river quality

*DCR Trails Program Mission:  
Provide assistance and education  
to encourage the development,  
maintenance and promotion of  
attractive, sustainable and  
connected trails throughout the  
state.*

Jennifer Wampler, Trails  
Coordinator  
[jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov)  
Virginia Dept of Conservation &  
Recreation, Division of  
Planning and Recreation  
Resources

and walking to reduce these costs is tremendous. Currently, the main impediment to increased active transport is a lack of safe and convenient routes between neighborhoods and destinations such as school and work.

That's where the East Coast Greenway comes in. The ECG spine route through the heart of major eastern cities holding over 40 million people is helping increase the number of trips by bicycle and by foot. Since 1990, active transport trips have more than doubled. They now make up more than 10% of all US trips, a share that we can triple in the next decade and a half to match our healthier counterparts in much of Western Europe. A \$400 million federal investment is needed to upgrade the safety of the whole ECG route for everyone from 8 to 80 years old, a fifth the cost of a recent I-95 bridge over the Potomac River. The investment would quickly pay off through returns of improved public health, higher quality of life, and reduced transport costs. After record growth in 2010, the East Coast Greenway is ready for prime time in 2011. Look for more ECG signs popping up throughout eastern cities and helping them rival active transport meccas from Portland, OR, out west to Amsterdam across the pond. The most effective method to reduce pollution, lower the American cost of living, and foster a healthy environment has arrived.

For more details on the East Coast Greenway and how you can get involved, go to [greenway.org](http://greenway.org)

Follow Dennis Markatos on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ECgreenway](http://www.twitter.com/ECgreenway)

### Measuring Your Market

ESRI has developed a Web tool for a quick look at your market potential by zip code. When you need to understand the lifestyles and lifestages of consumers in your markets, try Esri's Tapestry Segmentation.

### Forward email



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Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Planning and Recreation Resources | 203 Governor St. | Suite 326 | Richmond | VA | 23219